

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent

is:

1. A product which is provided with a coding pattern, which comprises a plurality of marks, each of which represents one of at least two different values, characterized in that the coding pattern also comprises a plurality of nominal positions, each of said plurality of marks being associated with one of said plurality of nominal positions and the value of each mark being indicated by its location relative to its nominal position.

2. A product according to claim 1, in which each nominal position is allocated a mark.

3. A product according to claim 1 or 2, in which essentially all the marks are displaced relative to their nominal positions.

4. A product according to claim 3, in which essentially all the marks are displaced the same distance relative to their nominal positions.

5. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which each mark is displaced in one of four orthogonal directions relative to its nominal position.

6. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the coding pattern comprises a raster with raster lines, where the intersections of the raster lines define the nominal positions of the marks.

7. A product according to claim 6, in which the distance between the raster lines is approximately 250 μm to 300 μm .

8. A product according to claim 6 or 7, in which the raster lines form a rectangular, preferably square, grid.

9. A product according to claim 6, 7 or 8, in which each mark is displaced along one of the raster lines.

10. A product according to any one of claims 6-9, in which each mark is displaced from its nominal position by a distance which is $1/4$ to $1/8$, preferably $1/6$, of the distance between the raster lines.

11. A product according to any one of claims 6-10, in which the raster is virtual.

12. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which all the marks have an essentially identical appearance.

13. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the marks are approximately circular, triangular or rectangular.

14. A product according to any one of claims 4-13, in which the effective diameter of the marks is approximately 50% to 240% of the displacement of the mark relative to its nominal position.

15. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the coding pattern is optically readable.

16. A product according to claim 15, in which the coding pattern is readable by infrared light.

17. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the product has a surface which is provided with the coding pattern.

18. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the marks constitute 0.25% to 20%, preferably approximately 9%, of the surface which is provided with the coding pattern.

19. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the coding pattern is a position-coding pattern which codes a plurality of positions on the product, each position being coded by means of a plurality of marks.

20. A product according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the product is a sheet of paper.

21. Use of a coding pattern which comprises a plurality of marks, each of which represents one of at least two different values, and which further comprises a plurality of nominal positions, each of said plurality of marks being associated with a nominal position and the value of each mark being determined by its location relative to its nominal position.